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RECORDS OF WISCONSIN SUPERINTENDENCY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS 1836-1848 AND
THE GREEN BAY SUBAGENCY 1850

On the four rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced six volumes and a number of unbound records of the Wisconsin Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1836-48. Also included are a few unbound records of the Green Bay Subagency, 1850.

From 1789 to 1824, Indian affairs were administered in the Office of the Secretary of War. In 1824 a separate Office of Indian Affairs was created in the War Department. In 1849 the Office of Indian Affairs was transferred to the Department of the Interior, and in 1947 it was renamed the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

During the 19th century, superintendencies and agencies were the two principal field jurisdictions of the Office of Indian Affairs. Superintendents had general responsibility for Indian affairs in a specific geographic area. Their duties included supervision of relations between the Government and citizens of the United States and the Indian tribes and of the conduct and accounts of the Indian agents within their jurisdiction. Agents usually were responsible for the affairs of one tribe or reservation. Until about 1878 most agents were accountable to a superintendent, although some reported directly to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C.

The Wisconsin Superintendency was established in 1836 with the organization of Wisconsin Territory (5 Stat. 10) from the western part of Michigan Territory. Wisconsin originally included the present States of Iowa and Minnesota and much of the Dakotas. When the Iowa Territory was organized in 1839, Wisconsin was reduced to the boundaries of the present State and that part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi River. The Territorial Governor served as ex officio Superintendent throughout the existence of the Wisconsin Superintendency. His first headquarters was at Elk Grove, but in October 1836 he moved to Belmont and in 1837 to Mineral Point. After 1841 the Governor stayed at Madison.

Chippewa, Iowa, Menominee, Munsee, Oneida, Sauk and Fox, Stockbridge, Winnebago, and other Indians lived in Wisconsin Territory. The Prairie du Chien (Winnebago and Sauk and Fox Indians), St. Peters (Sioux of the Mississippi), and Green Bay (Menominee and other Indians) Agencies and the Sioux, Ioway, Fort Winnebago, and Crow Wing (Chippewa of the Mississippi) Subagencies were assigned originally to the Wisconsin Superintendency. The Green Bay Agency and the Fort Winnebago Subagency previously had been assigned to the Michigan Superintendency. The other agencies and subagencies had been assigned to the St. Louis Superintendency.

In November 1836 the Superintendent established the La Point Subagency on Madeline (Madaline) Island at the head of Lake Superior for the Chippewa of Lake Superior. These Indians were previously assigned to the Mackinac and Sault Ste. Marie Agency. The subagent was not formally commissioned until the following year.

The Green Bay Agency was established in 1815 to provide general supervision for the various tribes in the area. Its headquarters was on the Fox River about 3 miles above Fort Howard, but the agent often stayed at other places in the Green Bay area. It was discontinued on December 31, 1836, and the commanding officer at Fort Howard was designated to take charge of agency business. In March 1837 a subagent was appointed for the Menominee and New York Indians (Brotherton, Munsee, Oneida, and Stockbridge) at Green Bay. The agency headquarters remained at Green Bay except for a period in 1842 and 1843 when the agent stayed at Grand Kaukaulin (Kaukalin) farther up the Fox River. In 1839 many of the Stockbridge and Munsee moved to the Delaware Reserve in the present State of Kansas where they were attached to the Fort Leavenworth Agency.

Prior to 1834 the Winnebago Indians living in the area which was to become Wisconsin Territory were under three separate jurisdictions. The Fort Winnebago Subagency, established under the Michigan Superintendency in 1828, was responsible for the Winnebago in the vicinity of the portage of the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers. Other Winnebago Indians were assigned to the Rock River Subagency at Sugar Creek, which was established in 1831 under the St. Louis Superintendency. The Winnebago living near Prairie du Chien, located on the east bank of the Mississippi River above the mouth of the Wisconsin River, were under the jurisdiction of the Prairie du Chien Agency. The Sauk and Fox who lived to the south of the Prairie du Chien Agency were assigned to the Rock Island Agency that had been operating from Fort Armstrong on Rock Island since 1821.

In 1834 the Prairie du Chien Agency was given jurisdiction over a band of Mdewakanton Sioux, led by Chief Wabisha, that formerly was attached to the St. Peters Agency. Both the Rock River Subagency for the Winnebago and the Rock Island Agency for the Sauk and Fox were eliminated and the Indians under their jurisdiction were attached to the Prairie du Chien Agency. The agency itself was to be moved from Prairie du Chien to Rock Island; Colonel Zachary Taylor, commanding officer at Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien (town), was to be responsible for the Winnebago and Sioux, leaving the agent with immediate responsibility only for the Sauk and Fox. The Prairie du Chien agent, Joseph Street, objected to these changes, so he alternated between the two sites. The commanding officer at Fort Armstrong took charge at Rock Island when Street was in Prairie du Chien.

The Prairie du Chien Agency and the Fort Winnebago Subagency were transferred to the new Wisconsin Superintendency in 1836. Henry Dodge, the Governor and ex officio Superintendent, was authorized to select the location for the Prairie du Chien Agency. He gave Street permission to return to Prairie du Chien which he did in the spring of 1837. That same year a separate agency was again established for the Sauk and Fox, and it was transferred from the Wisconsin Superintendency to the new Iowa Superintendency the following year. Prairie du Chien was reduced to a subagency and the Fort Winnebago Subagency was consolidated with it. During 1840 the Winnebago were moved to Iowa Territory and by December of that year the Prairie du

Chien Subagency had been moved to the Turkey River in Iowa Territory. The subagency was then transferred from the Wisconsin to the Iowa Superintendency. Jurisdiction over Wabisha's band of Sioux was returned to the St. Peters Agency.

The St. Peters Agency was established in 1819 at the mouth of the St. Peters (now Minnesota) River, near Fort Snelling and the site of Minneapolis. In the early years of its existence the agency was responsible for various bands of Sioux and Chippewa living in present-day Minnesota and part of Iowa, but by 1827 jurisdiction over the Chippewa had been transferred to the Sault Ste. Marie Agency. In 1836, when the agency was transferred from the St. Louis Superintendency to the new Wisconsin Superintendency, it was responsible for the Sioux of the Mississippi: Mdewakanton, Sisseton, Wahpekute, and Wahpeton. In 1838 the St. Peters Agency was transferred to the Iowa Superintendency.

The Crow Wing Subagency was established in 1835 to supervise the Chippewa Indians of the upper Mississippi area who previously had been assigned to the Mackinac and Sault Ste. Marie Agency. The subagency headquarters was first located at a trading post of the American Fur Co. near the mouth of the Crow Wing River in Minnesota. After the trading post was discontinued in 1837, the subagent moved to the St. Peters Agency. In 1839 the subagency was discontinued and its duties were absorbed by the La Pointe Subagency.

The Ioway Subagency for the Iowa Indians was established under the St. Louis Superintendency in 1825. In 1836 the subagency, which was located 40 miles northeast of Fort Leavenworth, was transferred to the newly formed Wisconsin Superintendency. By a treaty of September 17, 1836, the Iowa and the Sauk and Fox of the Missouri ceded their land on the Missouri side of the Missouri River and agreed to settle on reserves south of that river in the vicinity of the Great Nemaha River (now southeastern Nebraska and northeastern Kansas). When the Indians moved in 1837, the Ioway Subagency was replaced by the Great Nemaha Subagency which was placed under the St. Louis Superintendency.

The Upper Missouri Agency was established in 1819 to supervise the tribes residing in a vaguely defined region along the Missouri River. The Indians living in this area included Arikara, Assiniboin, Blackfeet, Cheyenne, Cree, Crow, Grosventre, Mandan, Missouri, Omaha, Oto, Pawnee, Ponca, and several bands of Sioux. In 1824 the Sioux Subagency was established in the vicinity of the Great (or Big) Bend of the Missouri River in the central part of what is now South Dakota. The authority exercised by the Upper Missouri Agency over the Sioux Subagency varied, and the subagency was virtually independent when it was transferred to the new Wisconsin Superintendency in 1836. The Upper Missouri Agency remained under the St. Louis Superintendency.

In 1837 the Sioux Subagency was made a full agency responsible for the Sioux, Ponca, and Cheyenne Indians of the upper Missouri. It then became known as the Upper Missouri Agency while the former Upper Missouri Agency became the Council Bluffs Agency with jurisdiction over the Missouri, Omaha, Oto, and Pawnee Indians who lived west of the Missouri River in present-day Nebraska. At the same time, the Council Bluffs Subagency was established for the United Band of Ottawa, Chippewa, and Potawatomi Indians who had moved from Michigan and Illinois and in 1837 were living east of the Missouri River in the vicinity of Council Bluffs (now

in Iowa). Both the new Upper Missouri Agency and the Council Bluffs Subagency were located in Wisconsin Territory but were assigned to the St. Louis Superintendency.

By 1841 the Wisconsin Superintendency had charge of only the Green Bay Subagency for the Brotherton, Menominee, Munsee, Oneida, and Stockbridge Indians and of the La Pointe Subagency for the Chippewa within the boundaries of Wisconsin Territory including the Chippewa of the Mississippi formerly under the Crow Wing Agency. In 1848 the Chippewa of the Mississippi were assigned to the Winnebago Agency. That same year Wisconsin became a State and the Wisconsin Superintendency was discontinued. Thereafter, the subagents for La Pointe and Green Bay reported directly to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington. In 1850 the La Pointe Subagency was moved to Sandy Lake, Minnesota Territory, and placed under the Minnesota Superintendency. The Green Bay Subagency was assigned to the new Northern Superintendency in 1851.

The records of the Wisconsin Superintendency concern almost all aspects of Indian administration within its jurisdiction. There are documents relating to negotiation and enforcement of treaties, land matters, Indian emigration and subsistence, intrusions on Indian lands, law and order, annuity and other payments, intertribal hostilities, military operations, depredation claims, traders and licenses, missionaries and schools, location of agencies, construction and repair of buildings, purchase and transportation of goods and supplies, employees, and accounts. Most of the correspondence of the superintendency was conducted with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and with the agents and subagents in the superintendency. There was also correspondence with other field officials and employees of the Office of Indian Affairs, the Secretary of War, Army officers, Treasury Department officials, traders, contractors, and Indians.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication consist of seven series of records of the Wisconsin Superintendency and one series of records of the Green Bay Subagency. Those of the Wisconsin Superintendency comprise the following:

1. Letters Received, 1836-48. Included are such documents as circulars, regulations, reports, contracts, estimates, vouchers, abstracts of property, statements of persons employed, and copies of letters sent. The sources of most letters were the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the different agencies within the superintendency. The records are arranged, for the most part, by date of document. Undated documents are placed at the end of the records for some years. No letters or other documents are included for the first half of 1839. Some letters received by the Superintendent during that period, however, were copied into the "Reports of Agents" volume reproduced on roll 3 of this publication.
2. Reports of Agents, 1836-46. Handwritten copies of reports and letters arranged in chronological order in one volume. A few original reports are with the letters received, but most of the originals were forwarded to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Some of the documents contain references to speeches and memorials transcribed in the volume "Indian Talks and Communications."
3. Indian Talks and Communications, 1836-45. Handwritten copies of speeches made by Indians during council proceedings arranged chronologically in one volume. Also included are copies of letters, petitions, memorials, and other documents received from Indians.

4. Contracts, 1838-41. Handwritten copies of contracts arranged chronologically in one volume. Included are copies of bonds, specifications, drawings, and other related documents. The contracts are mainly for surveys, the construction of agency and school buildings, and the breaking and fencing of land. They pertain chiefly to the Prairie du Chien Agency.
5. Estimates, 1836-46. Handwritten copies of annual estimates of funds required for fulfilling treaty stipulations and operating expenses, arranged chronologically in one volume. No estimates are included for 1841 through 1844.
6. Letters Sent to Washington Officials, 1836-48. Handwritten copies of letters sent to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and other officials in Washington arranged chronologically in one volume. The volume does not include an index. Copies of some letters sent are included in the letters received.
7. Letters Sent to Agents and Others, 1836-48. Handwritten copies of letters sent by the Superintendent to agents and subagents in the superintendency and to other Superintendents, disbursing agents, Army officers, and other persons involved in Indian affairs. Arranged chronologically in one unindexed volume. Some copies of letters sent are with letters received.

The records of the Green Bay Subagency comprise the following:

Correspondence, 1850. Chiefly handwritten copies of letters received and letters sent arranged chronologically. Several of the documents concern the Menominee expedition to Minnesota Territory to explore land granted to them by article 3 of the treaty of October 18, 1848.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication are part of the records in the National Archives of the United States designated as Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75. Related records in the same record group have been reproduced as National Archives and Records Service Microfilm Publications M18, *Registers of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-80*; M234, *Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-81*; M21, *Letters Sent by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-81*; M348, *Report Books of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1838-85*, T494, *Documents Relating to the Negotiation of Ratified and Unratified Treaties With Various Indian Tribes, 1801-1869*; and M574, *Special Files of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1807-1904*.

Records of other superintendencies available on microfilm are: M734, Arizona, 1863-73; M832, Idaho, 1863-70; M1, Michigan, 1814-51; M842, Minnesota, 1849-56; M833, Montana, 1867-73; M837, Nevada, 1869-70; T21, New Mexico, 1849-80; M2, Oregon, 1848-73; M834, Utah, 1853-70; M5, Washington, 1853-74; M856, Central Superintendency, 1813-78; and M640, Southern Superintendency, 1832-70.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication were prepared by Robert M. Kvasnicka, who also wrote the introductory remarks and provided the other editorial material.

APPENDIX

Lists of Officials for the Period Covered by this Microfilm Publication

COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>
Elbert Herring	July 10, 1832
Carey A. Harris	July 4, 1836
Thomas Hartley Crawford	Oct. 22, 1838
William Medill	Oct. 28, 1845

GOVERNORS AND EX OFFICIO SUPERINTENDENTS

Henry Dodge	Apr. 30, 1836
James Duane Doty	Apr. 15, 1841
Nathaniel P. Tallmadge	June 21, 1844
Henry Dodge	Apr. 8, 1845

AGENTS AND SUBAGENTS

La Pointe Subagency

Daniel P. Bushnell	Nov. 1, 1836, by superintendent; regular commission on Apr. 25, 1837
Alfred Brunson	Oct. 13, 1842
James P. Hays	Jan. 12, 1844
John Livermore	May 24, 1848

Green Bay Agency

George Boyd	Transferred from Mackinac Apr. 18, 1832
Bvt. Brig. Gen. George M. Brooks (acting)	Jan. 1, 1837

Green Bay Subagency

George Boyd	Mar. 31, 1837
George W. Lawe	May 24, 1842
David Jones	Notified Nov. 17, 1843
Albert G. Ellis	Aug. 21, 1845

Prairie du Chien Agency

Joseph M. Street	Aug. 8, 1827
Col. Zachary Taylor (acting)	Commanding officer at Fort Crawford who acted as agent

during periods when Street was
stationed at Rock Island

Prairie du Chien Subagency

Thomas A. B. Boyd	Mar. 31, 1837
David Lowry	June 5, 1839

Fort Winnebago Subagency

Maj. John Green	From 1835 until the subagency was discontinued in 1837
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St. Peters Agency

Lawrence Taliaferro	Mar. 27, 1819
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Crow Wing Subagency

James B. Dallam	Notified Sept. 11, 1835
William Sinn	Notified May 28, 1836
Myles M. Vineyard	Feb. 22, 1837

Ioway Subagency

Andrew S. Hughes	Transferred from Sioux Subagency, Sept. 5, 1828
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Sioux Subagency

Joshua Pilcher	Notified Mar. 5, 1835
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